

REMARKS

Claims 9, 11, 12 and 17 were pending at the time of the Office Action. In this Amendment, claim 9 has been amended. Support is found in, for example, paragraphs [0041]-[0042] of the application-as-published, US 2007/0171153. Care has been exercised not to introduce new matter. Claims 9, 11, 12 and 17 are currently pending for examination, of which claim 9 is independent.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 9, 11 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamaki (US Published Patent Application No. 2003/0122750 A1, hereinafter "Tamaki") in view of Suzuki et al. (US Published Patent Application No. 2004/0164301 A1, hereinafter "Suzuki"). Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamaki, Suzuki et al. in view of Muruyama et al. (US Published Patent Application No. 2004/0061670 A1, hereinafter "Muruyama"). The rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Amended claim 9, in pertinent part, recites "a control arrangement for causing said scanning switch arrangement to connect said scanning lines to said first potential thereby to select said scanning lines sequentially and to control the connected state of said drive switch arrangement," and **"the first potential changes depending upon numbers of pixels to luminesce on scanning lines that are selected for luminesce."** As disclosed in FIGS. 2 and 3 of the application-as-published, illustrating one example of what is recited in claim 9, the control unit 8 **reads the voltage data VGS1 to VGSn from the memory unit 8a in accordance with the numbers 1 to n of the pixels to luminesce on the scanning lines S1 to Sm selected,** and outputs the drive signals based on the voltage data VGS1 to VGSn read, to the transistor Tr2 of the scanning switches 21 to 2m corresponding to the scanning lines S1 to Sm unselected. When

the number of pixels to luminesce on the scanning line S2 is n, the drive signals based on the voltage data VGSn are outputted to the transistor Tr2 of the scanning switches 21 and 23 to 2m corresponding to the scanning lines S1 and S3 to Sm unselected. When the number of pixels to luminesce on the scanning line S2 is one, the drive signal based on the voltage data VGS1 is outputted to the transistor Tr2 of the scanning switches 21 and 23 to 2m corresponding to the scanning lines S1 and S3 to Sm unselected. (See paragraphs [0041]-[0042] of the application-as-published)

Proposed combination of Tamaki, Suzuki and Muruyama fails to disclose limitations of claim 9 regarding **“the first potential changes depending upon numbers of pixels to luminesce on scanning lines that are selected for luminesce.”**

Tamaki's transistor 182, of which input voltage at its gate corresponds to the “first potential,” receives high or low voltage, whose values are constant, depending upon the values of the electrode control signals SK1~SK3. The constant high or low voltage inputted at the gate of the transistor 182 does not change and is not related to number of pixels to luminesce on scanning lines. Suzuki, which was cited for unselected state of the transistor, and Muruyama, which was cited for temperature detecting means, are silent on any mechanism or structures to connect scanning lines to either of first or second voltages and to change the voltage coupled to scanning lines depending upon number of pixels to luminesce on scanning lines. Therefore, the combination of Tamaki, Suzuki and Muruyama, at most, results scanning arrangements consisting of two transistors, in which the voltages inputted to the transistors do not change depending upon number of pixels to luminesce. In contrast, claim 9 requires **“the first potential” to “change[s] depending upon numbers of pixels to luminesce on scanning lines that are selected for luminesce.”**

Accordingly, claim 9 and claims dependent thereupon are patentable over the combination of Tamaki, Suzuki and Muruyama, because the combination of Tamaki, Suzuki and Muruyama fails to disclose the limitations of claim 9 regarding “the first potential changes depending upon numbers of pixels to luminesce on scanning lines that are selected for luminesce.”

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application should be allowed and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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